



Attorney Docket No. 126470-1002

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor patent application of

PAUL R. SPREHE

Group Art Unit: 2161

Serial No. 09/805,959

Examiner:

Filed: March 14, 2001

For: METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR FINANCING
NATURAL GAS UTILITY INVENTORIES
IN UNDERGROUND RESERVOIRS

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

<p align="center">CERTIFICATE OF MAILING (37 CFR 1.8a)</p> <p>I hereby certify that this paper (along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as first class mail and in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.</p> <p align="center">_____ Anne Ziegler</p> <p align="center"><i>Anne Ziegler</i> (Signature of person mailing paper)</p> <p>Date: <u>March 22, 2005</u></p>
--

STATUS INQUIRY RE FIRST OFFICE ACTION

Applicant inquires as to the status of the above-identified patent application regarding the issuance of a first Office Action.

The above-captioned application received a filing date of March 14, 2001. Applicant has not received a first Office Action for this application.

Applicant respectfully requests an estimate by the Office as to when the first Office Action should be issued.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 3/22/05

Michael E. Martin
Michael E. Martin
Registration No. 24,821
Agent for Applicant

GARDERE WYNNE SEWELL LLP
1601 Elm Street, Suite 3000
Dallas, Texas 75201-4761
Phone (214) 999-3000
Fax (214) 999-4667